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Friday, July 22, 2011

THE BUILDING THE STATE OF THE S

U.S. Customs and Border Protection recognizes the U.S./ Aruba partnership at Reina Beatrix International Airport



Peter Steinmetz applauds Defrancisci and PM placing the Aruba Flag



Officer Defrancisci shows the original flag of foreign immigration service

Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman joined hands with Port Director of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Dylan Defrancisci, in placing the Aruban flag for the first time in the area of the Reina Beatrix International Airport which is officially U.S. soil for those traveling to the States from Aruba.

This long-standing cooperation between the two nations was acknowledged by the PM, the U.S. authorities and Peter Steinmetz, CEO of the Aruba

Tourism Authority, during a casual and congenial ceremony in the section of the airport under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection yesterday morning, July 21.

Peter Steinmetz described the relationship between the airport and U.S. officials as the "siblings" under the Dutch and Aruban parent authorities, who sometimes squabble but work out their differences and enjoy a positive working relation-



With officers of the Aruba Immigration Serivice

ship

Prime Minister Eman expressed his great pride in the productive and congenial partnership Aruba shares with the U.S., and the island's place among very few nations that can offer U.S. Border Protection service within their domain, thus insuring a more efficient

and enjoyable return trip for U.S. citizens and simpler processing for those from other nations traveling to the U.S.

Officer Defrancisci stated "U.S. Customs and Border Protection Aruba believes that out of respect for the host nation, the display of the Aruban colors is a just addition that

symbolizes the two governments' partnership and shared interest in the operational success of Aruba Pre-clearance."

"Each day the men and women assigned to the CBP Aruba process anywhere from 1000-4000 passengers en route to the U.S.

Continud on page 5

Atlantis has landed, ending NASA's shuttle era



See coverage on page 6

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY:

British hacking probe extends beyond Murdoch papers

LONDON (AFP) - More newspapers became embroiled in Britain's phone-hacking scandal Thursday as the deputy prime minister said the crisis was a chance to clean up "murky" ties between politicians, police and the media.

Prime Minister David Cameron is also facing the worst crisis since he took office last year, amid questions over talks he had on Murdoch's failed bid for pay-TV giant BSkvB and his employment of an ex-Murdoch editor as his media chief.

Deputy premier Nick Clegg said a forthcoming judge-led public inquiry into the scandal was a "once in a generation opportunity to really clean up the murky practices and dodgy relationships" at the heart of the British establishment.

But the Liberal Democrat leader said Cameron, a Conservative, had been "very cat-

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THE MORNING N F

egorical that no inappropriate discussions took place" with Murdoch's aides over the bid for full control of BSkyB, which collapsed earlier this

Opponents have seized on Cameron's comments in parliament on Wednesday as an admission that he did have conversations of some kind with Murdoch's lieutenants over the deal.

Meanwhile, Rupert Murdoch's son James was accused Thursday of misleading British MPs this week when he said he did not know when authorising a settlement that phone hacking at News of the World went beyond one re-

Colin Myler, the newspaper's former editor and Tom Crone, who resigned last week as legal manager for the Murdoch media empire's British publishing arm News International, issued a statement saying they had warned him there was evidence when he authorised a key payout to a victim.

Murdoch said in a statement: "I stand by my testithe Select mony to Committee."

Other media groups are now in the spotlight after Britain's Information Commissioner's Office said police had requested files from a 2006 inquiry into the use of private investigators by newspapers.

That inquiry found that the Daily Mail made 952 requests to private detectives for confidential details; The People made 802 requests, the Daily Mirror 681 and The Mail on Sunday 266. The News of the World was in fifth place with

US-Cuba relations hang over jailed American's appeal

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba's high court could Friday remove an important obstacle to normalizing long damaged relations with the United States if it decides to free jailed contractor US Alan Gross.

Gross, 62, was arrested in December 2009 for bringing satellite phones and equipment to the communist island's Jewish community, working as an independent contractor for a USAID-funded democracy building program.

Gross was sentenced to 15 years prison on March 12 for "endangering the independence and security" of the Cuban state.

The Supreme Court appeal "is another opportunity to reiterate, through his Cuban counsel, that his actions on the island were never intended to be -- and in fact never were -a threat to the Cuban government," said his lawyer Peter

US authorities, who recognize that Gross worked for a subcontractor of the US Agency for International Development, have called for his immediate release.

Hopes for the release have focused on humanitarian concerns -- Gross has lost some 90 pounds (40 kilos) in jail, according to his wife Judy -- and his daughter and mother-inlaw are battling cancer.

Kahn said Judy Gross would be unable to attend Friday's hearing as she was recuperating from an unspecified operation.

The case has undermined a gentle rapprochement between Cuba and the United States -which cut off diplomatic relations with the communist island in 1961 -- since President Barack Obama entered the White House in January 2009.

Cuba's Council of State, which Raul Castro presides, would weigh up a possible pardon, should that be considered.

Cuba is still seeking the release of five of its nationals arrested in 1998 and jailed for allegedly spying in the United States.

The Cuban lawyer of Alan Gross, Nuris Pinero, also represents the families of the five. whom communist authorities hail as "heroes of the anti-terrorist struggle."

Ecuador libel case, jailing, draws worldwide criticism



QUITO (AFP) - Media organizations around the world Thursday denounced a court decision in Ecuador that saw four from the newspaper industry sent to prison and imposed a fine of \$40 million for libel against President Rafael Correa.

Correa pledged to not keep "one cent" of the libel award against the daily El Universo, after a judge Wednesday convicted newspaper senior managers Carlos, Cesar and Nicolas Perez and their former editorial page editor Emilio Palacio of libel, sentencing them to jail and granted the president damages.

"I'm not interested in one cent, even worst from a person like (columnist) Emilio Palacio or the Perezes." Correa said Thursday after the court decision that also called for three-year prison terms.

The president of the USbased Inter American Press Association, Gonzalo Marroquin, called the decision a "serious blow to the most essential principles of freedom of information."

Ricardo Uceda of the Perubased Institute of Press and Society called the ruling "troubling" because it could mean that "the exercise of editorial opinion... could become a criminal act."

French-based watchdog Reporters Without Borders said it was "shocked" by court ruling and said it was contrary to the general trend in Latin America of decriminalizing media offenses.

Correa has said that his lawyers would appeal the ruling, seeking the full \$80 milsought. initially lion Newspaper lawyers are also appealing.



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Minister visits Venezuela to strengthen New tropical wave shows ties with an important tourism market

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber is on a two-day visit to Venezuela to meet with different tourism industry partners to continue what was initiated last year. Last year's initiatives had impressive results for Aruba's tourism.

The tourism figures for the past six months of the year indicate very positive results for our tourism as this relates specifically to the Venezuelan market. There was a significant 47.73% increase from Venezuela in the month of June.

The Latin-American market has shown an increase of 31.15% in the first 6 months of

Oduber is intent on diversifying our tourism market and is interested in increasing traffic from other destinations as well and not to be focused only on the American market.

Venezuela is a very important market for Aruba, yet for quite some time it had been left unattended. We failed to give attention to the great potential of Venezuela. The negative effect of our lack of attention worsened when the Venezuelan government decided to prohibit charter flights to our island.

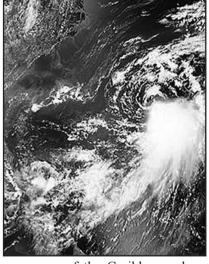
Otmar Oduber, however, succeeded in getting the Venezuelan authorities to revise their position on charters and allow charters from Venezuela to fly to Aruba again. Oduber also decided to invest more in advertising Aruba in the Venezuelan market. This has obviously paid off well in view of the whopping 47.73% increase in visitors this past June.

Currently, Oduber is in Venezuela to stimulate even more traffic from our neighboring island and to explore strategies that could be used to promote Aruba as THE tourism destination to visit. Upon his return to Aruba, Oduber is expected to share with the community several tourism projects that are slated to take place here.

potential for development

-- A small but vigorous tropical wave east of the Lesser Antilles islands in the Caribbean is showing some slight potential for eventual development into a tropical depression or stronger system.

The area of thunderstorms has only a 10 perchance cent for development by Saturday, according to the National Hurricane Center, but it could turn out to be the type of system that takes some time to get going. The Climate Prediction Center on Tuesday forecast moderate chances that a tropical storm would develop in the



area of the Caribbean where the new system is located. The name of the next storm will be

Tropical Storms Bret and Cindy are still careening through the Atlantic, but they both should see their demise soon. Cool waters and wind shear will tap them of energy and blow them apart.

Meanwhile, the hurricane season appears to be starting to become much more active. Tropical waves have begun their regular, steady movement from the coast of Africa across the Atlantic. And as the season progresses, more storms will get their start from those tropical waves, often called Cape Verde storms for their origin near the Cape Verde islands. The typical peak of hurricane season in mid-August through mid-October.

Two Aruban airlines making great strides and Government is elated!

ORANJESTAD -- Last week the official presentation of the Fokker 50 aircrafts to Insel Air International took place in Curacao. These are the new aircrafts, acquired from KLM that will carry the Aruba logo. These aircrafts will be registered and stationed here on Aruba as soon as the AOC is completed. The Fokker 50's will be part of the Insel Air International fleet along with their MD 80 which will all carry the Aruba branding. They will operate as a separate entity as Insel Air Aruba.

They are programmed to

operate as of this year from Aruba to the following destinations: Curacao, Caracas, Barquisimeto, Miami, San Juan and Punta Cana.

In the second phase, in 2012, they will begin flying to Sint Maarten, Valencia, Barranquilla, Medellin, Quito, San Jose and Havana, Cuba.

Insel Air also intends to lease a 737-800 aircraft with a seating capacity of 180 pax to fly to Newark and Sao Paulo, Brazil. As soon as the AOC is ready and they receive the necessary permits from the US and Brazil these flights will

begin operating.

Regarding Tiara Air Aruba with her two Shorts, they have received their Aruba branding and are in the process of acquiring the lease of a 737-300 aircraft with a capacity of 147 passengers. The new routes for Tiara Air Aruba are: Caracas, Fort Lauderdale, Valencia, Cucuta, Medellin and in the future Barbados and Boston.

Tiara Air Aruba is currently adapting their AOC to incorporate the operation of the 737-300 in their permits.

The government is extremely proud of the accomplishments and advances of these two airlines. The Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber, expressed praise for the cooperative agreement signed between Tiara Air, Insel Air and the government of Aruba last April 18th. This agreement makes our local Airport a hub helping us to open new gateways in our region, but also at the same time serves our visitors and local population. We can now access destinations directly from Aruba with many more available seats.





Reina Beatrix Airport begins phase 1 of major expansion project for South Side terminal



Peter Steinmetz, Prime Minister Eman and Airport GM Mario Bikker

Aruba's enormously upgraded and attractive Universal Air Service terminal that opened a little over a year past, which serves private and business traffic, welcomed Prime Minister Mike Eman yesterday morning to announce the official commencement of Phase 1 of a 3-part expansion project.

Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz explained the necessity of the expansion, and affirmed the success of the new facility, which has precipitated a vast increase in private air traffic to Aruba since it opened, particularly from Latin America.

Presently, the terminal is handling anywhere from 10 to 15 arrivals and departures

daily during non-peak periods, estimated one of their official personnel. During peak periods, such as Easter week or Christmas, these numbers increase to 50 to 70 flights daily, with easily 35 to 50 planes needing to be secured on the ground for those staying over during the holidays. Generally, most arrivals from Latin America are on small planes, and those from the U.S. are flights deploying the larger Lear jets.

Phase 1 is expected to cost 18,000,000 Arubian florins (\$10, 285,714) and when completed in the projected 12 months, will add 2 new hangers to the private terminal, one of which will accommodate the 737 jets of Aruban-



artists rendering of new facilities

based airline Tiara Air, which will commence daily commercial service to the U.S. by the end of the year. The South Side Apron will be enlarged, allowing for more small planes to be tethered on the ground, fueling services from Valero will be enlarged and more efficient, and there will be a formalized security center.

Phases 2 and 3, which will include alternative runways for the private terminal and extension of the aprons, will eventually bring the upgrade costs to somewhere between 30 and 50 million Arubian florins, (\$17,852,271 and \$28,571,428.)

The upgrade of the Universal Air Terminal is being done in cooperation with Schiphol International B.V. Architectural firm for the



Jansen

project is BK Consult N.V.; the construction company is Van Kessel Havenbouw N.V., and electrical advisers are PIB N.V. Representatives of the various participating parties were present for the "groundbreaking" ceremony, as well Myrna Jansen representing the Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber as was Jim Hepple, CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association.

by Rosalie Klein



Aruba's Public Transport system – Arubus, is in dire straits

ORANJESTAD -- The previous government constructed a lovely facility for Arubus in San Nicolaas, but there are 14 busses that are 13 years old and are no longer fit for the road. Reportedly, 100% of the new San Nicolaas bus station was constructed with borrowed money and today they are unable to purchase new busses because there is a debt of 5 million Florins.

Minister Oduber is currently working diligently with the Arubus Board of Commissioners to find ways to remedy the situation of our public transport system. Reports indicate that Arubus is practically bankrupt, and different steps have already been taken to salvage the company. Everyone is expected to cooperate and con-



tribute to helping Arubus during this very trying phase of its operation. Every effort will be made to create a solid company with a healthy financial situation to be able to provide reliable and efficient service to the Aruban community.







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U.S Customs and Border Protection recognizes the U.S./ Aruba partnership ...

Continued from page 1

Each of those passengers walks past this new insignia wall and flags, which will depict the shared alliance between the two countries. As you are aware, Aruba is one of only 15 locations outside the U.S. that is afforded CBP preclearance processing."

"The employees assigned here are all proud to be part of this island we call home during our tenure here, and are honored to receive this new addition," he concluded.

Staff members of Aruba's Immigration Service stationed at the airport presented the island's flag, which takes its place next to that of the U.S. and shares the space with the insignia of Homeland Security and the traditional flag of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service.





PM, Peter Steinmetz and Mario Bikker with personnel of U.S. Border Protection



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Sci-Tech

End of an era for US spaceflight as Atlantis lands

CAPE CANAVERAL (AFP) - The shuttle Atlantis cruised home for a final time Thursday, ending its last mission to the International Space Station and closing a 30-year chapter in American space exploration.

Under cover of darkness, the shuttle glided seamlessly to a predawn landing at Kennedy Space Center at 5:57 am (0957 GMT), marking the formal retirement of the shuttle program and leaving Russia as the world's only taxi to the ISS.

"Mission complete, Houston," shuttle commander Chris Ferguson said as the black and white orbiter, emblazoned with an American flag, rolled to a stop.

"The space shuttle has changed the way we view the world. It has changed the way we view our universe," he said. "There was a lot of emotion today but one thing is indisputable: America is not going to stop exploring."

Twin sonic booms erupted over Florida moments before

the shuttle came home to perfect summer weather with cloudless skies and hardly any wind at the Kennedy Space Center.

"Hearing the sonic booms as Atlantis came home for the last time really drove it home to me that this has been a heck of a program," said Mike Moses, space shuttle launch integration manager.

Astronauts emerged from the spacecraft and greeted NASA officials and mission managers, exchanging hugs, kisses and smiles as they admired the orbiter for a final time.

"I just want to salute this crew, welcome them home, and let them know how proud we are of them," NASA administrator Charles Bolden said.

"Children... who dream of being astronauts today won't get to fly on the space shuttle, but one day they may walk on Mars," the former astronaut added.

"I was proud to be a part of the shuttle program and will carry those cherished memories and experiences with me for the rest of my life," he said through tears. "But I am also ready to get on with the next big challenge."

The bittersweet end to the storied shuttle career comes 42 years after US astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to set foot on the Moon as part of the Apollo 11 mission.

The last shuttle mission, known as STS-135, was a nearly 13-day trip to restock the ISS for a year with several tons of supplies and food.

Over the course of the program, five NASA shuttles -- Atlantis, Challenger, Columbia, Discovery and Endeavour -- have comprised a fleet designed as the world's first reusable space vehicles.

Since the first shuttle space flight launched on April 12, 1981, the five shuttles have traveled more than 542 million miles (872 million kilometers), and carried 355 people from 16 different countries, NASA said.

Columbia exploded in 2003 and Challenger was destroyed in 1986 in accidents that killed a total of 14 crew members.

Those disasters left only three in the space-flying fleet and Enterprise, a prototype that never flew in space. The quartet will become museum pieces in the coming months.

Critics have assailed the US space agency for lacking a focus with the space shuttle gone and no next-generation human spaceflight program to immediately replace it.

The astronaut corps now numbers 60, compared to the 128 employed in 2000, and

thousands of people are being laid off from Kennedy Space Center. But NASA chiefs say future missions to deep space should revive hope in the US program.

"I recognize that change is really hard, but huge growth or huge improvement comes from change," said Bill Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for space operations.

NASA is building a Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle that it hopes will be able to send humans to an asteroid in 2025 and explore Mars by 2030, while it turns over low-orbit space travel and space station servicing to commercial ventures.







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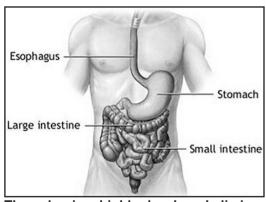
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belief they're someth

--Detox, or detoxification, diets are popular, but they're not scientifically proven.

Detox diets are touted as a way to remove toxins from the body. Specific detox diets vary — but typically a period of fasting is followed by a strict diet of raw vegetables, fruit and fruit juices, and water. In addition, some detox diets advocate using certain herbs and other supplements along with colon cleansing (enemas) to

help empty the intestines. Most detox diets last seven to 10 days.

Some people report feeling more focused and energetic during and after detox diets. However, this may be due to a belief that they're doing something good for their bodies.

for their bodies. There's little evidence that detox diets actually remove toxins from the body. Most ingested toxins are efficiently and effectively removed by the kidneys and liver and excreted in urine and stool.

It's also important to consider possible side effects. Among other problems, detox diets can lead to:

*Dehydration *Fatigue

*Dizziness

*Nausea

If you're considering a detox diet, get the OK from your doctor first — and remember, the best diet is a healthy diet based on fruits and vegetables, whole grains and lean sources of protein



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Keep around your house and yard clean

Versace backs campaign against sandblasting jeans



MILAN (AFP)- Versace voiced its support on Thursday for a campaign to stop the sandblasting of jeans -- a practice used mainly in the developing world and widely condemned as dangerous for workers' health.

The Italian fashion giant said that none of its suppliers were using the controversial technique and that it had now joined an international campaign "to encourage the elimination of sandblasting as an industry practice."

Sandblasting is used to give jeans a fashionable faded look.

The Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) -- a coalition of non-governmental organisations and trade unions aimed at improving work conditions in

the textile industry -- had previously called on Versace to end sandblasting.

"After an intensive campaign... the Italian textile brand Versace has just announced that it will join other denim manufacturers around the globe in calling for a ban on the practice of sandblasting," the CCC said.

"After many months of silence, Versace now say they agree that the sandblasting operators who make the finishings on the jeans run unacceptable health risks. Previously they had refused to join the call," it added.

join the call," it added.

The CCC, which launched last year, said sandblasting operators worked for leading brands in countries including Bangladesh, China, Egypt and Mexico.

But the operators contract an acute form of silicosis, which has killed many of them.

Leading brands including Benetton, Burberry, Carrera Jeans, Gucci Levi-Strauss, Pepe Jeans and Replay have already joined the campaign.



A rousing 4th anniversary celebration for Cool Casino



Managing Director Mark Charles with managers and Ruben Garcia



Gillian and Elaine came all the way from Scotland to enjoy **Cool Casino**

Everyone was a winner at the Cool Casino 4th anniversary celebration on Wednesday evening, June 20th. The spacious and glamorous casino located in the Riu Palace Resort sported live music and both a free Blackjack and Slots tournament for its dedicated patrons, with noted local DJ Ruben Garcia gearing the festive mood up a few notches as only he can do.

Casino Managing Director Mark Charles personally welcomed many who came to take advantage of the special anniversary offers, including free tickets with every purchase of chips.

Cool Casino is a popular spot for its elegant décor,





Magdelena deals for the blackjack tourna- pretty faces with friendly smiles make Cool Casino a favorite

high tech slots and smiling

The anniversary celebra-

tion brought fun lovers in droves, and the excitement in the air made it a great night

for all who indulged.

by Rosalie Klein





Open air movies at UNOCA





ORANJESTAD – During the summer vacation, the Aruba National Library, together with UNOCA, is offering to the community open air screenings of favorite children's films every Thursday.

All ages already enjoyed two very successful nights in a relaxing ambiance while watching Megamind and

All are invited to join their neighbors for the following films:

> July 21: Toy Story 3 July 28: Yogi Bear

August 4: Despicable Mme

August 11: How to Train your Dragon

Entrance is FREE. The exposition rooms at UNOCA will stay open during these nights, offering everyone the opportunity to admire our ocal arts and buy books by local authors

UNOCA will also raffle a book during the movie nights and all children can participate in the raffle at no charge.

For more information readers can go to UNOCA at Stadionweg 21, call tel. 583-5681 or visit the website www.unocaruba.org.



Dream, Dare, Do!



The project Dream, Dare, Do - created by two students Daniela Ramos and Lieke Rietkerk, and with the cooperation of 'Popcorn Club' already resulted in a huge success. The Popcorn Club is a foundation, dedicated to motivate our Aruban youth to walk on the right path of life.

The organizers are still looking for participants for the July 23-24 weekend, everyone between 13 and 19 years old are welcome. Participants will get an impression about culture activities like theatre, songwriting, dances and modeling. Admission is FREE!

Persons interested to sign up for the project can call Daniela Ramos at cel. 5635398 or Lieke Rietkerk at



cel. 5603086

At 9:00 a.m., there will be a bus at the Department of Culture in Oranjestad to transport the youngsters to the Scol di Arte in San Nicolas and back to Oranjestad at 6:00 p.m.

For more information about this project, please visit the website www.dreamdaredo. info or sent an e-mail dreamdaredo.aruba@ gmail.com

US judge presses Lindsay Lohan over counseling

A US judge ordered troubled US actress Lindsay Lohan yesterday to sign up for psychological counseling, a key condition of her receiving probation for an alleged jewelry

At an updated hearing on Lohan, who was banned last month from holding parties while in home detention, Los Angeles Superior Court judge Stephanie Sautner said she had three weeks to enroll for oneon-one counseling.

"Trust me, she will be held to that (enrollment) deadline," Sautner said. "I will not take into consideration, 'Sorry, I was on the set of the John Gotti



movie.' This will be completed on time," she said.

The 25-year-old was sentenced to 35 days of home detention in May, as part of a plea bargain over the alleged theft of a \$2,500 necklace from a jewelry shop near her home in Venice Beach

PICKLES









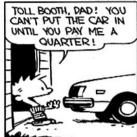
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- 1. Aykroyd of "Coneheads"
- 4. Yosemite 7. Writer Ferber
- 11. Gl's club
- 12. Cranky
- person 14. Gangs
- 15. Former wife
- 17. At one's
- and call 18. What
- Scrooge shouted

15

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19. Dam-building agcy.

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18

- Downs
- 24. Saddle attachment
- 28. Ritual
- 29. Military prison
- 30. Princeton wall covering
- 31. Darlings
- 32. Mrs. Eddie Cantor
- 33. Saves stamps 35. Utilizes
- 36. Church spire
- 37. At that locale
- 38. R-V
- connection 39. Biography, for short
- 40. ". __ Want for Christmas" (2 wds.)
- 43. Carrie Fisher, to Debbie

19

Reynolds

- 48. The ___ Clinic
- 49. To be (Fr.)
- 50. Alias initials
- 52. Timetable
- 53. Implore

DOWN

- 1. Lemon
- 2. "Do _ say..." (2 wds.)
- 3. Second to
- last mo.
- 4. "Vamoose!" 5. Curved
- structure Bombshell
- West
- Get under way

8. Buck's mate 9. Leno's

- network 10. Question
- 51. Hymn's end
 - 13. Racetrack figures abbr.
 - 16. Woodwind
 - 20. Damone and others
 - 21. Sevareid and Clapton
 - 22. Key player in basketball
 - 23. Type
 - 24. Washington,
 - e.g. 25. Increase the bet
 - 26. Cow part
 - 27. Nine-day-old ingredient
 - 29. Isolate
 - 31. Co. section
 - 34. Wound 35. "Trouble's
 - coming!" (hyph.)
 - 37. Exxon animal
 - 39. Perry Mason portraver
 - 40. "I ___ Rock" (2 wds.)
 - 41. Flee
 - 42. Drain cleaning chemical
 - _ turning point (2 wds.)
 - 45. Bar bill 46. Make do
 - 47. Scrap of cloth

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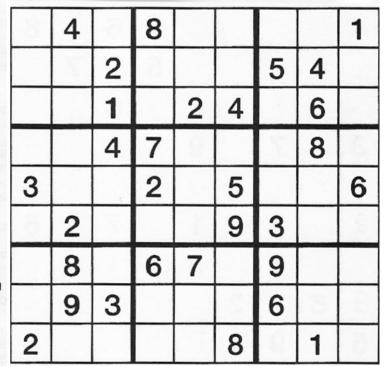
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-4	9	L	Þ	8	6	ε	9	7	2
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20	2	8	L	9	3	7	Þ	9	6
	6	9	8	Þ	2	9	L	3	7
	7	Þ	9	3	L	6	2	9	8
	L	3	2	Z	9	8	6	Þ	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must

contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

White House sees 'momentum' for debt deal

WASHINGTON (AFP)- The White House said Thursday it saw "momentum" towards a deal to avert a disastrous early August debt default, but denied media reports that a compromise with top law-makers may be imminent.

"We believe there is momentum behind the idea of a balanced approach to a significant agreement," spokesman Jay Carney told reporters with time running short before an August 2 deadline to raise the \$14.3 trillion US debt ceiling.

But Carney rejected a New York Times report, citing anonymous congressional officials, that aides to President Barack Obama had informed key lawmakers a deal was in the works with Republican House Speaker John Boehner.

"There is no deal. We are not close to a deal," said the spokesman. "The fact is that there is no progress to report, but we continue to work on getting the most significant deficit-reduction package possible."

The Times said the accord would include cuts to government health and retirement benefits programs dear to Democrats as well as new revenues -- a blend in line with how the White House has previously defined a "balanced" deal -- generated through closing loopholes and ending tax breaks.

Such an agreement would likely anger Democrats

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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pledged to protect the US social safety net as well as Republicans who have vowed to oppose increasing revenues, endangering its prospects for passage in the divided Congress.

The National Journal publication that covers US politics said the White House and top House Republican leaders were discussing a 10-year, \$3-trillion plan to cut the deficit while raising the debt ceiling.

Finance and business leaders have warned failure to raise the US debt ceiling by then would send shock waves through the world economy, while Obama has predicted a default would trigger economic "Armageddon."

The largest US creditor China has twice warned that Washington must protect investor interests, while ratings agencies Moody's and Standard & Poor's have said the sterling Triple-A US debt rating was in danger of a downgrade.

Word of a deal came after Boehner told reporters that he had braced his restive Republican majority in the House of Representatives for the possibility of having to support a potentially difficult compromise.

Boehner acknowledged that some Republicans would reject any debt-ceiling compromise with Obama and his Democratic allies, "but I do not believe that would be anywhere close to the majority."

But Boehner warned it was time for Obama to "step up" his efforts to find a solution and stressed: "It's not enough to wish or to wait for a solution to materialize."

At the same time, the speaker said, "it would be irresponsible" for Congress and the White House "not to be looking at backup strategies for how to solve this problem."

With time running short, the US Senate was expected to kill, in a procedural vote on Saturday, a House-passed Republican plan calling for draconian cuts and a balanced budget amendment as the price for a debt ceiling increase.

And lawmakers were discussing a plan crafted by Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell that would let the president raise the debt ceiling by \$2.5 trillion in three increments through 2012 with just Democratic votes

Eurozone deal, IEA leave oil prices mixed

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices were mixed Thursday,

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) light, sweet crude for delivery in September, rose 73 cents to close at \$99.53 a barrel.

At one point, WTI was trading above \$100 -- the first time it had reached the psychologically important level since June 10.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for September fell 64 cents to settle at \$117.51 on the IntercontinentalExchange.

The rally came as eurozone leaders at an emergency summit in Brussels were hashing out a deal to help debt-ridden

countries like Greece, Ireland and Portugal and prevent the European debt crisis from spreading.

US and European stock markets surged and the euro topped \$1.44 as details emerged about the deal, under which countries in financial distress will receive loans with lower interest rates and longer maturities.

"It's all been about what is going on in Europe," said Matt Smith, an oil analyst with Summit Energy.

"We're seeing a superstrong euro. It gave the impetus behind crude to pop its head above 100 dollars."

Traders have been keeping a close eye on the situation in Europe out of fear that a Greek default could trigger a continent-wide economic slowdown, cutting into global energy demand.

A weaker dollar also tends to boost the price of oil. Since crude prices are denominated in dollars, a fall in the US dollar typically leads to increased oil consumption outside the United States.

In a separate development on Thursday, the International Energy Agency said it was "not now seeking the release of additional" stocks of oil from strategic reserves in oil-consuming countries.

Market participants had been waiting to see whether the Paris-based agency would follow up its decision to tap strategic oil stocks last month with another drawdown.

OPAL 44

Orthodox Jew buys Mengele's diaries for \$300,000

NEW YORK (AFP) - The diaries of Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele, the so-called "Angel of Death" who tortured prisoners at Auschwitz death camp, were bought Thursday by an Orthodox Jew for almost \$300,000.

Connecticut-based Alexander Autographs, which organized the auction, said the journals were sold to a private collector who is planning to open a museum.

The diaries, written after World War II once Mengele had fled from the Allies' clutches to Latin America, contain his philosophical reflections, autobiographical stories and poems penned between 1960 to 1975.

They include some 3,500 pages of "hidden journals" written by the doctor who carried out gruesome medical experiments on inmates at Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

The final sale price for the items, mostly small, spiral-bound notebooks, was \$292,775, the vice president of Alexander Autographs, Peter Klarnet, told AFP.

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Aruba's religious sites Featured: the Lourdes **Grotto**



Aruba is known for its beautiful white beaches, pristine turquoise waters, a lot of sunshine and a beautiful arid landscape. Tourist flow to the island to relax in a tranquil ambiance and enjoy the many activities constantly happening here. But what if you want to spend a quite moment? Aruba's spiritual sites offer you the best to achieve the perfect balance of body and soul.

Aruba was colonized by both the Spanish and the Dutch, thus has a strong prevalent Catholic population, even today. While there are many religions represented on the island, it is the Aruba churches and sites that draw those of all

The Lourdes Grotto is possibly the most well-known religious site on Aruba. Located near San Nicolas in the southern part of the island, away from most of the action, the Lourdes Grotto is peaceful and set away from much of the hectic activity. A grotto is either a natural or artificial cave used by humans, and the grotto on Aruba became a religious site when the Catholic church placed a large statue of the Virgin Mary into a rocky hillside at Seroe Preto in 1958.

The Lourdes Grotto is named after the region in southern France where the Virgin Mary appeared to a peasant girl. The statue was placed on Aruba to mark the 150th anniversary of this appearance. Another cave is located across the street and, as an extra treat for visitors, parakeets live all around this area. Every year on February 11, a procession travels from the St. Theresita Church located in San Nicolas to the Lourdes Grotto Aruba for mass.



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



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Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were

looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into

ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple

hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final



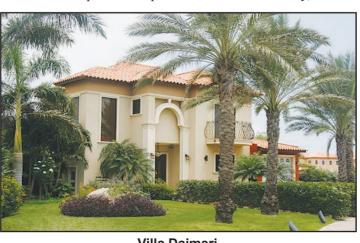
cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as

and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters. caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

a fitness room, tennis courts

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appoin- ted kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cook-outs and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/ dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba. com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Villa Daimari



Harry Potter website adds Google magic



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP)-Author J.K. Rowling's website devoted to fictional wizard Harry Potter will feature a bit of Google magic when it debuts later this year in the

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United States, according to the Internet titan.

Rowling's beloved Potter titles will be available on Google eBooks platform at Pottermore.com and Google Checkout will be the preferred payment system, according to Larissa Fontaine of Google Books new business development.

In June, Rowling unveiled an interactive website featuring new material about the boy wizard's world, while his adventures will also now be sold as e-books for the first time.

The free website, www.pottermore.com, will go live from July 31 for one million Potter fans who pass a special online challenge, and to the general public from October.

The seven e-books will be available through the website from October in partnership with Sony.

Rowling said Potter fans will be able to register on the free website using one of the young sorcerers from the books as their online identity, then play games and interact with elements of the fictional

The site will also have previously unpublished material that she has written on the backgrounds to the characters and their lives at Hogwarts Academy, a fictional school for young wizards.

The author laid down her pen -- and Harry's magic wand -- when she finished the seventh book in 2007, with a stunning record of 400 million copies of the series sold around the world.

Fake Chinese Apple store has even staff fooled



BEIJING (AFP) – China's passion for iPads and iPhones has triggered widespread cloning and even brawls. Now, it has gone further with a fake Apple store so convincing even the staff think they work for Steve Jobs.

The store, in the southwestern city of Kunming, was uncovered by an American blogger who was initially fooled, before she noticed not everything was as it seemed.

At first glance, the signs, computers and layout of the shop all look exactly like a genuine Apple store, says the blogger, who posts under the name BirdAbroad.

Photos posted by the blogger show the employees wearing Apple's trademark blue T-shirts with name badges hanging around their necks.

But a closer look reveals the winding stairs going up to the chill-out area are poorly made, the walls have not been painted well, and the shopfront sign says "Apple Store" whereas the real deal just sports the now-famous fruit logo.

The employees, meanwhile, all genuinely believe they work for Apple, said BirdAbroad, who asked to remain anonymous when contacted by AFP on Thurs-

"I do not know if the computers were real or fake -- they seemed real, but it can be hard to tell," she said. "As of last night, the store was still open."

She added that a quick walk around the corner revealed two other rip-off Apple stores -- one of which sported a sign saying "Apple Stoer".

The Apple website lists

The Apple website lists four official stores in China -- two in Beijing and two in Shanghai, and none in Kunming.

It has a list of approved retailers that sell its products, but none of those in Kunming corresponds to the fake store's address, according to the blogger.

China is home to the biggest counterfeit market in the world, and despite repeated government pledges to root out fake goods, these are still widely available throughout the country.

As the craze for all things Apple slowly spreads around China, fake iPhones and iPods have also emerged.

The news, however, is unlikely to have an impact on the US-based IT giant, which on Tuesday posted record sales and profits in the recent quarter as sales of iPhones and iPads more than doubled, helped by huge demand in Asia.



Evans mystified as Schleck rides to epic stage win



COL DU GALIBIER, (AFP) -Andy Schleck roared to victory on the history-making 18th stage featuring the highest ever finish in Tour de France history while, France's Thomas Voeckler put up a successful effort to retain the leader's yellow jersey on the punishing second of three day's riding in the Alps, crossing the 2,645 metre Col du Galibier summit in fifth.

COL DU GALIBIER (AFP) - Australia's Cadel Evans was left mystified after yellow jersey rival Andy Schleck capped an audacious attack with victory on the epic 18th stage Thursday.

Schleck, the runner-up the past two years, surprised all the favourites when he launched an attack halfway up the Col d'Izoard, with over 60 km still to race.

After building his own lead on the peloton, the Leopard-Trek rider eventually caught up with the last remnants of an early breakaway and went on to take his lead to over four minutes.

Despite Evans' 40-strong group chasing hard on the descent and in the wind-hit valley leading to the foot of the final, 22.8 km climb of the Galibier, their deficit refused to budge.

Evans said he had trouble understanding how Schleck and three other riders defied 40 desperate chasers.

"Just on a numbers basics, 20-30k block headwind, up a valley -- we are 40 (in the group) with one to nine guys riding at the front, and they are four riding at the front," said the Australian.

"They really rode fast at the front, I don't quite understand how they made so much time."

Evans soon realised that the efforts of his group waere not going anywhere -- especially as the Europear team of race leader Thomas Voeckler were doing the absolute minimum as the Frenchman struggled to survive.

"Euskaltel had the most riders at at one point with four guys and they were riding with three or others, but still losing time," added Evans.

"I had to put it on the line, but it was my tour to win and mine to lose.

"It's also a bit bizarre when Voeckler's team stops riding and he has the yellow jersey. They've ridden a lot all week, but he still had a teammate in the end and just sort of looked at me to do the work, but I'm alone too."

By the time they started the climb to the Galibier Schleck still had a lead of over three minutes on Evans' rapidly dwindling chase group.

With 13 km from the top, Evans took over the chase by himself, with the rest of the field fighting to stay on his wheel.

It was a brave move and allowed Evans to finish only 2:15 behind Schleck. He is now fourth overall at 1:12 behind Voeckler and 57 and 04 seconds behind Andy and Frank Schleck respectively.

While reigning champion Alberto Contador struggled home at 3:50 to sit 4:44 behind Voeckler, Evans now faces a battle with the Schlecks on Friday's final mountain stage.

If he comes through that comparatively unscathed, his and Australia's maiden triumph on the race awaits after the penultimate stage time trial over 42.5 km in Grenoble on Saturday.

Barca sign Sanchez for 26 million euros



MADRID (AFP)- Spanish and European champions Barcelona have reached a deal with Italian club Udinese

to buy Chilean striker Alexis Sanchez for 26 million euros, it announced Thursday.

The 22-year-old will sign a five-year contract, it said in a statement on its website.

"Barcelona and Udinese have reached an agreement on the transfer of Alexis Sanchez. The deal is for five years. The cost of the transfer is 26 million euros" with a further 11.5 million in "variables", referring to match-related bonuses.

Sanchez has played for Udinese since 2008 and last season was voted best player in Serie A, after scoring 12 goals in 31 games.

The player had also been linked with English sides Manchester United and Manchester City, but said last month that he wanted "Barcelona or nothing".

Sanchez "has been sought by the best teams in the world. However, he has been strongly committed to playing for Barca," the statement said.

Barca coach Pep Guardiola said this week that his priority for next season was signing a forward, with Sanchez his top target.



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Contador concedes yellow jersey bid is over



Spain's three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador rides in the 200.5 km eighteenth stage of the 2011 Tour de France.

COL DU GALIBIER (AFP) - Three-time champion Alberto Contador says his bid for a fourth yellow jersey at the Tour de France is over following his dramatic collapse on an epic 18th stage Thursday.

"Victory is now impossible," said Contador after finishing the 200 km epic nearly four minutes behind determined Luxemburger Andy Schleck.

The Spaniard's unexpected slump means he is now seventh overall at 4min 44sec behind surprise race leader Thomas Voeckler of France.

Frank Schleck, Andy's older brother, is third overall at 1min 08sec behind Voeckler, with Australian Cadel Evans - now seen as the Schlecks' biggest rival for the yellow jersey -- in fourth at 1:12.

Contador came into the

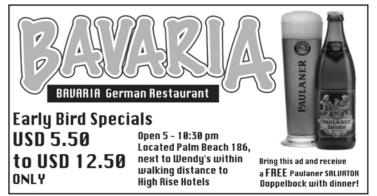
race with question marks over his ability to perform in the crucial third week having competed in and won a gruelling Giro d'Italia for the second time in May.

But on Thursday it appeared that a knee injury he had suffered inside the first week following a series of crashes had flared up again.

Early on the first of three major climbs the Saxo Bank rider fell to the back of the main peloton, and he was later seen consulting with the race's official doctor.

After the stage Contador was given medicine for his knee pain, which he hopes will abate by the third and final day in the mountains on Friday.

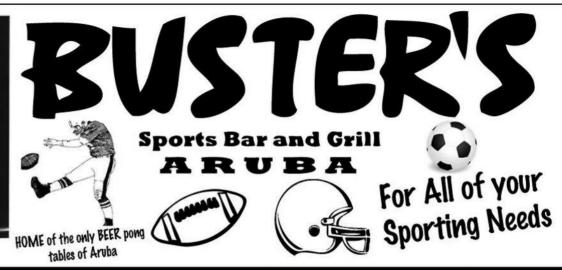
"I'm not used to the kind of situation I was in today. Now I have to get rest, recover and look ahead to tomorrow."





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Khan says youth will be served against Judah



LAS VEGAS (AFP) -Britain's Amir Khan is out to prove himself the class of the crowded light welterweight division on Saturday as he takes on veteran champion Zab Judah in a world title unification bout.

Khan, the World Boxing Association, goes for his eighth victory in a row when he takes on the American southpaw, who holds the International Boxing Federation belt.

Khan and Judah are just two of the top-level fighters in a division that also features World Boxing Council champ Timothy Bradley, Andriy Kotelnik and Lucas Matthyse.

After Bradley turned

down a chance to fight Khan, the Briton agreed to take on Judah, an experienced 33year-old who brings a record of 41-6 with 28 knockouts to the bout.

It could prove the toughest match to date for Khan, who brings a record of 25-1 with 17 knockouts to the bout.

"Zab is a tricky southpaw who has won many world titles but I don't think this is his time," Khan said of Judah, who was the undisputed welterweight world champion six years ago.

"I know how to beat Judah. He doesn't have the hunger that I do. I don't think he can take the belt off me."

Judah has painstakingly worked his way back to the

top of the light-welterweight division after eight years in the welterweight ranks. He won three major welterweight belts, but suffered five of the six defeats on his record at the higher weight.

While Khan, trained by Freddie Roach in Los Angeles, has youth and speed on his side, Judah has plenty of experience and a recent run of succes that includes five victories in a row. Khan will be his fourth opponent in barely more than a year.

"It was a long road back to the top, but this is what a champion is made of. When they are knocked down, they rise back up to the top," Judah said, adding that at this point in his career he can't afford a defeat.

"Amir can deal with a loss right now. It's 'Super' Judah time."

After a narrow split decision over Argentina's Matthysse last November, Judah turned to fighter-turned-trainer Pernell Whitaker, who has shored up his defensive skills.

"Having him in my corner exempts the whole Freddie Roach thing," said Judah, who believes his experience will make the difference against the younger man.

"We're definitely going to take him to school," Judah said. "He's a great fighter, but this fight is a little premature for him."

for him."

Khan scoffs at that notion.
"We come into this fight as favorites and I'm going to take those titles back home,"
Khan said. "He won't be able to take the pressure, the speed and the power. I think he's taken the wrong fight."

Phelps back in China as doping dominates



SHANGHAI (AFP) - US swimming great Michael Phelps returned to China this week looking for the form that swept him into the history books at the Beijing Olympics, as a major doping row clouded the world championships.

Phelps, who has caused concern with some stuttering swims this year, made a low-key arrival at Shanghai's Pudong Airport, looking unshaven and wearing a baseball cap. He did not speak to media and was whisked away on a USA team bus.

"Weeeee twitter DOES work!!! Here at last," he tweeted afterwards, referring to China's ban on the popular microblogging site.

Phelps could take part in up to seven events in Shanghai, which would give him a shot at eclipsing the five gold medals he won in 2009 as he tries to kick-start his preparations for next year's London Olympics.

The Baltimore native already has 14 Olympic titles at the age of just 26, including the eight he won at Beijing's Watercube -- the greatest performance Olympic swimming has ever seen.

And the Shanghai championships, whose diving, water polo and synchronised swimming are well under way at gleaming new venues, would welcome some Phelps heroics after a high-profile dope case hovered over the opening week.

FINA has also tightened its anti-doping procedures at the Shanghai worlds by reintroducing blood testing, alongside urine sampling, for the first time since 2005.

And athletes at the world championships have been urged only to eat at designated restaurants in Shanghai to avoid meat contaminated with banned clenbuterol, which Chinese farmers sometimes feed to pigs and cattle.

Brazil govt to register fans for 2014 World Cup

BRASILIA (AFP) - The Brazilian government will begin Friday to compile a database of all members of fan clubs in Sao Paulo as part of a vast security network in the build up to the 2014 World Cup.

The scheme, which was launched at the end of last month in the southern region of Parana, will see all members of 475 supporters clubs throughout the country regis-

tered, Sports Ministry official Alcino Rocha explained.

Its success will be tested during the 2013 Confederations Cup also in Brazil.

"It's obvious that registration alone will not resolve (the problem of violence) but it's a necessary step ultimately to identify the fanatic who could be implicated in acts of violence in or around stadiums," said Rocha.



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COPA AMERICA

Venezuelans hard done by as Paraguay advance

MENDOZA (AFP) - Venezuela said they felt very hard done by after losing 5-3 on penalties to Paraguay in their Copa America semifinal on Wednesday after a goalless draw which they dominated.

Not only did the underdogs hit the woodwork three times but they also had a goal disallowed as twice champions Paraguay moved into Sunday's final against Uruguay, chasing a record 15th title.

"I don't want to do them down - but Paraguay were incredibly lucky," said downcast coach Cesar Farias. "But we go home with our heads held high.

"They chalked off a goal for us, we hit the woodwork three times and created more chances. We should have won but it didn't work out for us," said Farias, whose side was, the shooutout aside, unbeaten throughout the tournament in reaching the semis for the first time.

"This is how things go with football and I cannot reproach my players. we didn't lose a match throughout. Penalties are basically all down to luck and today it wasn't on our side."

Farias resisted the temptation directly to criticise Mexican referee Francisco Chacon, who should have dismissed rather than booked Dario Veron for butting Giancarlo Maldonado in extratime.

It was Veron who would score the winning penalty kick.

But Farias did note that "I am tired of hearing that the big boys get to decide (outcomes). This happens when

they get the rub of the green from the referee. This hypocrisy has to end."

Tempers boiled over at the end with a mass scuffle between both team's benches but Farias absolved his side of any blame.

"We never look to provoke incidents," Farias insisted and said his men deserved the utmost respect, while insisting the Paraguayans had started the contretemps.

Venezuela substitute Giancarlo Maldonado said he was sad to have come so close and missed out.

"We could have got so much further - we played good football but we didn't get lucky.

"Yet we should be proud of what we have achieved."

Teammate Gabriel Cichero added: "We didn't convert our chances and Paraguay were lucky but that's football," he told TyC

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Paraguayan keeper Justo Villar also conceded that fortune had favoured his side.

"It's not that we have been practising penalties - we've been rather lucky," said Villar, whose compatriots also knocked out Brazil in the same fashion in the quarterfinals

Venezuela will now play for third place against Peru at La Plata outside Buenos Aires.



